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ber of the Oneida Conference of the M. E. Church, was called to this city to make an address at an anniversary of one of our charitable societies. It was about the time that long beards were first becoming fashionable. The young clergyman wore a handsome beard, *then* not as common as at the present day. The subject of beards was discussed just previous to the meeting, and our young friend declared that if any one would put twenty dollars into the plate for the object for which he was about to plead, his beard should come off. The sum named was contributed, and the next morning the clergyman appeared with a clean face!

We know of one young man who has made *his* beard worth two hundred thousand dollars. The story is: he was a beardless youth; when, addressing a young, gay, capricious girl, with whom he was desperately enamored, in the most acceptable form of a declaration, he was answered by the beauty that she "did not mean to marry a woman." This set him back *some*; but, nothing daunted, he went into the cultivation of the *hirsute*—as he might have said. At the end of two years he found his face clad like a patriarch, when he again besieged the lady's heart and—conquered. His beard did the work for him and was credited with the lady's dowry—just two hundred thousand dollars!

—A "composing draught" may be said to be a draft for ten thousand dollars, given to a man in a "failing" condition. Also good for restoring "suspended" animation. "Capital," too, when a man is impressed that a "tight" time is coming. In act, it is apt to inspire a man with a contempt for sheriffs, coroners, and courts—except the courts over which pretty girls preside until two o'clock in the morning. Ten thousand dollars! Won't some of our friends open the door and let in a *draft*?


—Here is a story told by the *Providence Post*: "A clergyman, from a town near Providence, and one of his elderly parishioners were walking home from church one icy day last winter, when the old gentleman slipped and fell flat on his back. The minister, looking at him a moment, and being assured he was not much hurt, said to him: 'Friend, sinners stand on slippery places.' The old gentleman looked up, as if to assure himself of the fact, and said, 'I see they do, but I can't.'"

—The exquisite designs on pages 206 and 207, are by the late J. A. Dallas—an artist of rare excellence in his peculiar department of design. He died as his powers were just becoming matured, leaving behind him a fine reputation for what he had done, and regrets that he should have been taken away so early, to leave so much undone. The designs of his pencil are not numerous—those we give being among his last. How appropriate are they for the season of the Christmas festival! Our young readers, particularly, will thank us for giving the exquisite designs a place in this number.

—The frequent transfer of matter from the pages of this journal to other papers and magazines, without a shadow of credit, compels us, very reluctantly, to copyright each number. We have seen over thirty papers containing the remarkable stories, "Painted in Character" and "The Phantom Wife," and not one of them credited this journal! Such discourtesy we shall not suffer; and, hereafter, we shall positively require all newspapers and magazines copying from us to give express and explicit credit. Where that is done, we shall be pleased to have the press avail itself of our carefully chosen and heavily paid for matter.

—This present number "speaks for itself," as the word goes. It is offered, not only as a specimen of what American printers, designers, and engravers, can do, but also as an evidence of the excellence of the autorial talent which we bring to bear in catering for the members of the Association—to all of whom the journal is sent free. We design to furnish, in all respects, a good magazine—one which shall compare favorably with any published in this country. Let this number be compared with the current issue of any of our "popular" monthlies, and see if it suffers by contrast. The matter used is mostly original, prepared expressly for us at considerable cost, by eminent authors; though we do not hesitate to transfer to our pages a capital story or poem which may come to us from over the sea, providing it exactly meets our taste and wants. As an instance, we give, in this number, a very extraordinary narrative, "A Night with Spectres," adapted from "Blackwood." It is abridged fully one half, and so modified as to render it more impressive, because more probable and more brief than the original.

## HOLIDAY OFFERINGS.

EAR reader of the ART JOURNAL, let us, in advance of the time, extend to you a holiday greeting—a merry time for Christmas, and a glad one for New-Year! We have done our part to add to your home-comfort, and trust we have earned a hold upon your friendly consideration. Let us, then, ask your attention to the following:

The ART JOURNAL, as an elaborately illustrated magazine, makes a most beautiful companion for the table of the parlor, the library, the boudoir, or the office. Each year comprises a volume of over two hundred large 4to pages, which, when appropriately bound, will make a real treasure of art and literature—a perpetual source of satisfaction and enjoyment.

The engraving of *Shakspeare and his Friends* is, without doubt, the most valuable and appropriate of any ever offered to the people and the homes of America. Let others speak of its great merit, however, as the press of the whole country is doing; it is for us to accept their verdict, and to direct attention to it. As a work of true art, it is a *desirable* companion for every home, office, and study. It is not only a source of pleasure to all who look upon it, but a messenger of good for the taste it develops, the beauty it develops. The work ought to find its way into every house where intelligence and good taste have their abiding-place.

Dear reader! The season of the holidays will soon be here, when you will be called upon to chose some gift for your beloved ones, some token of your remembrance to friend or relative. Can anything be more beautiful and appropriate than what is placed within your easy reach by the Association? Can THREE DOLLARS, applied in any other way, bring one half the satisfaction which will come from the possession of the year's ART JOURNAL, the beautiful engraving of *Shakspeare and his Friends*, and a certificate in the premium awards, by which the owner may become the possessor of a rich and exquisite work of art from the hand of some excellent artist? We are *sure* no such offering ever before was made, and we hope every friend of pure art and literature, who contemplates a holiday gift to male or female friend, old or young, will bear in mind these COSMOPOLITAN OFFERINGS.